States	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Madhya Pradesh	17.0	11.2	8.7
Maharashtra	66.0	67.5	67.5
Orissa	73.9	75.6	75.6
Punjab	7.8	7.1	4.2
Rajasthan	65.7	46.2	34.9
Tamil Nadu	27.7	30.1	32.0
Uttar Pradesh	18a8	16.0	15.2
West Bengal	36.5	37.3	39.9
Others	10.9	9.4	10.2
All-India	801.5	719.0	615.5

Working of National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land use planning

1368. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the working and performance of the National Bureau of Soil Survey and land use planning;

(b) if so, the details regarding its major achievements during the past five years including those having a direct bearing on agriculture production in general; and

(c) details concerning Maharashtra State in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Quinquennial Review Team set up by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has commended the work done by the Bureau in taking up the soil resource mapping of different Sates on 1:250,000 scale and of the country on 1:1 million scale. Soil resource maps of ten States have been prepared.

The Bureau has also prepared agro-ecological map of the country with 20 distinct regions. These dilineated regions are fairly homogenous land units which will be useful for scientific land use planning. From the soil resource map, thematic maps for specific soil parameters such as soil depth, texture salinity, available water holding capacity nutrient status can be generated for each State which will help in developing input management strategies for increasing agricultural production in normal soils and for taking up suitable reclamation measures in problem soils. The soil resource maps will also form a basis for extension workers to scientifically transfer technologies developed at Research Stations to similar soils occurring in the State. The bureau has undertaken an assessment of land degradation caused by soil erosion, waterlogging and soil salinity.

(c) The soil resource map of Maharashtra is ready along with thematic maps on soil depth, salinity and erosion hazard. The agro-ecological map covering Maharashtra has been finalised. Six district soil survey reports and 29 project area reports have been brought out. The district atlas of Nagpur with 31 themes has been pre-

pared. The Bureau has developed two model mini-watersheds in collaboration with state development agencies.

A Post-Graduate course on Land Resource Management has been started at Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola in partnership with the Bureau.

National Dairy Development Board

1369. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in the Economic Times dated 8th February, 1993 under the caption N.D.D.B. manipulates MIO to subsidise Dhara;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the various observations of serious nature made therein; and

(c) the details of action taken/proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The observations made do not reflect the factual position.

(c) Government are examining the accounts of National Dairy Development Board to assess the Government liabilities for reimbursement of losses under HTO. Government are also considering ways and means to certain losses in future.

Exploitation of Farmers in Madhya Pradesh

1370. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers in the State of Madhya Pradesh are not getting their due price of Soyabean, Tendu leaves, paddy and other foodgrains while the traders are exploiting these form produces;

(b) if so what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to protect the interest of the farmers in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) The Government announces each season minimum support prices of major agricultural commodities to protect the interests of the farmers. The minimum support prices fixed by the Government are applicable for the entire country including Madhya Pradesh. The Government has fixed minimum support prices of Kharif and Rabi crops of 1992-93 at substantially higher levels as compared to the previous year. The hike in the per quintal minimum support price of Paddy is Rs. 40, Millets Rs. 35, Pulses Rs. 95 Groundnut-in-shell Rs. 105 Sunflower seed Rs. 130 Soyabean Rs. 80 and Raw Cotton Rs. 110. Similarly, for Rabi crops the per quintal hike in the minimum support price of Wheat is Rs. 55, Barley Rs. 50 Gram Rs. 100; Rapeseed/Mustard Rs. 90 and Sunflower and floria Rs. 80 each.

2 As per reports received the prices of foodgrains and soyabean are ruling above the minimum support price levels in Madhya Pradesh.

3. The present agricultural price policy does not cover Tendu leaves since commodities having all-India importance are covered under the policy. However, under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) State Governments can approach the Central Government for undertaking purchase operations on agreed terms and conditions in respect of commodities not covered under the agricultural price policy.

1371. [*Transferred to the 19th March, 1993*].

International Exhibition on Agriculture in Israel

1372. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRI-